

BEFORE
THE PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION OF
SOUTH CAROLINA
DOCKET NO. 2005-100-C - ORDER NO. 2005-462
SEPTEMBER 7, 2005

IN RE: Generic Proceeding to Investigate Emergency Services Continuity Plans.))))	ORDER GRANTING REQUEST FOR POSTPONEMENT OF HEARING
--	------------------	---

This matter comes before the Public Service Commission of South Carolina (the Commission) on the request of Verizon South, Inc. (Verizon), the Office of Regulatory Staff (ORS), BellSouth Telecommunications, Inc. (BellSouth) and United Telephone of the Carolinas (Sprint) (collectively, the requesting parties) to postpone the hearing scheduled for August 31, 2005, in the instant docket. This proceeding was established by the Commission pursuant to Order No. 2003-218, issued April 3, 2003, in Docket No. 2003-89-C in order to investigate emergency services continuity plans in general and their various ramifications.

Upon establishment of the Docket, the Commission issued and published a Notice of Generic Proceeding in various newspapers of circulation in the state. The purpose of the Notice was to inform interested parties of the proceeding and of the manner and time in which to file the appropriate pleadings for participation in the proceeding. Numerous entities filed Petitions to Intervene in order to participate in the case.

The requesting parties currently seeking to postpone the hearing in this matter filed direct testimony in the proceeding and assert in their request that after the filing and review of the testimony submitted, they suggest that a working group be established by the participating parties in an effort to reach consensus on the issues raised in this proceeding. According to their request, Verizon, the ORS, BellSouth and Sprint agree that such an effort will be meaningful and will allow for exploration of various opinions being advanced in a cooperative setting. The requesting parties state that they will work toward a unified proposal for the Commission's consideration and will present to the Commission a consensus plan and any unresolved issues, if such exist.

By letter dated August 18, 2005, the ORS states its agreement that it will benefit the Commission and all interest parties to discuss the issues raised in the prefiled testimony prior to a formal hearing in an effort to reach a consensus and minimize any unresolved matters.

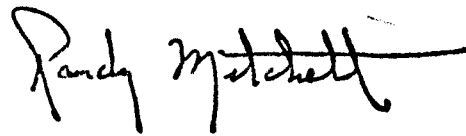
The requesting parties respectfully request that the Commission postpone the hearing scheduled for August 31, 2005, and allow the Parties ninety (90) days to work toward a consensus on the issues raised in the proceeding. Pending the Commission's decision regarding this request, the requesting parties state that they have agreed to not file any rebuttal testimony.

US LEC of South Carolina, Inc. (US LEC), another party to the proceeding, advised the Commission by letter dated August 19, 2005, that US LEC does not oppose the request for a continuance of the hearing as long as the other parties of record, including US LEC, are allowed to participate in the proposed working group.

Upon consideration of the Parties' request, the Commission finds that the hearing scheduled for August 31, 2005, shall be postponed and that a working group be formed from the parties in this case. That group will have ninety (90) days from the parties' receipt of this Order to work towards a consensus on the issues raised. The requesting parties or their representative shall report back to the Commission at the end of the ninety (90) day period as to the status of matter.

This Order shall remain in full force and effect until further order of the Commission.

BY ORDER OF THE COMMISSION:



Randy Mitchell, Chairman

ATTEST:



G. O'Neal Hamilton, Vice Chairman

(SEAL)